criteria of safety, closure of nearby level crossing, local road users' requirement etc.

Setting up of new freight corridors

1913. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal to set up new freight corridors;

(b) the likely boost to demand for rails in the next three years;

(c) whether private sector is proposed to be involved to meet the enhanced demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A new Public Sector Undertaking named Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has been formed to implement the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project. The Company has been entrusted construction of Eastern and Western Corridor worth Rs. 22,000 crores. The Eastern Corridor will start from Ludhiana in Punjab and will terminate at Sonnagar. The Eastern Route will be extended to the proposed Port in Kolkata area considering the possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of proposed Deep Sea Port. The Western Corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed *via* Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Rewari to Tuglakabad and Dadri.

(b) Demand of rails depend on number of projects in hand and Budget allotment which is done on annual basis.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the same will depend on the demand and only after various norms of Indian Railways specification for rail-manufacturing are fulfilled by private manufacturers.

Procurement of Rail

1914. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rails are being procured from Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the rates thereof;

(c) the current prices for structural steel in the market; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to introduce competition in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The finalized price of rails with effect from 01.07.2005 are Rs. 35,635/- per Metric Tonne (MT) which is applicable upto 31.12.2005 *i.e.* second half of 2005. These prices are still being paid provisionally for the present supplies.

(c) Order placed for structural steel on M/s. Steel Authority of India Ltd. by Ministry of Railways in the current contract, the minimum price accepted is Rs. 19,500/- per MT and the maximum price is Rs. 30,800/- per MT depending upon the type of section.

(d) Steps to introduce competition for supply of rails can be taken only after a few sources are available fulfilling the various norms of Indian Railway specification for rails.

Projects for West Bengal

1915. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects declared for West Bengal during last ten years, year and project-wise;

(b) the amount spent against each till 30th June, 2006; and

(c) the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing projects falling fully/partly in West Bengal taken up in the last ten years, from 1996-97 onwards, project-wise together with expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2006 and their current status are as under:—